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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

May 26, 1999

Chairman William Kennard; Federal Communications Commission The Portals 445 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C 20554 NOV 01 1999

PERMEDICATIONS COMMISSION DEFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I am writing on behalf of The Zeitgeist Community Gallery of Cambridge in support of your proposal to create a low power radio service. We have been concerned about changes in radio that have occurred over the last few years, most particularly, the loss of localism and the abdication of many radio stations from any serious responsibility.

Given that almost everyone has a radio, the potential of that medium to fulfill a democratizing and inclusive cultural mission is enormous. Radio should reflect the tremendous diversity of our culture, serving as a point of entry for newly arrived and non-English speaking Americans, providing information and discussions of important local issues and making available cultural/musical programming that is deemed not demographically appealing enough for broadcasters to carry.

Citizens with something to say should know that they have access to a small, locally based station which is run by their neighbors. The mission of The Zeitgiest Community Gallery of Cambridge would be greatly served were we able to gain such access.

We feel that the 50-100 watt stations are the heart and soul of this proposal and should be prioritized. Although we believe that 500-1000 watt service can be included, such stations should not be allowed in urban areas, where crowded radio dials will allow for very few stations as it is.

To fulfill its most important function-accessibility- low power FM owners should be restricted to a single station and should live close to the broadcast area of the station. Cross-media ownership should not be allowed.

We commend you for your foresight in proposing this service and hope that you are able to succeed in your plan to open up the airwaves to new voices.

Sincerely,

The Zeitgeist Community Gallery

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NAME

**ADDRESS** 

Mila Dillon

DAVID MODY

Chris Meredith

Jonah Pupino Michael Tuttle Colin Langerius

Coletta Rock
Cathy Burns
Melissa Donaghue
Bob Kulter
Jan TRUDEAU
Branther DeAtley

Cinande Turner JOHNADAM FAHLY WWW Howston

Cack Kolpan

Bill Peterson

Monique Citiz

CG Westland eve #505 02/19
Boston MA

7 HIGHLAND FARMANE ROXBURY
7 Highland Park Ave Roxlang MA
285 RoxLury St. Roxbury M A
285 Roxbury St. Roxbury M A
285 Roxbury St. Roxbury M A
28119
POBOX 200072 Boston Oaldo

/ Elmwood st. Roxbuey, MA 0-2120

1773 Boylstonst opt B Boston, MA 02215
19 Sachem St. #3 Roxbury MAO2120
564 Wass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139
24 DEAZBORN RAD MEDRORD, MA 02139
426 Broadway Semerville, Mass 02145
209 Linden St washauith 021152
153 HUDSON Street somewille
44 Woodbine St Vewer Ma 02466
1065 11th St. Borlder, Co
78 Aldie Allston MA 02134

144 Highland Ave. # 2 Scherife 144 02/13

MIKEWHITE Eric Provonsil Miss Corn Hippins Fiona Chiofellis Melisson Hess Lee Lawler
Kyle Gates Jonah Sades Andrew Basile BURLE SAMPSON Frian Wong TRACEY Mac Cottino tatya govern

243 Western AVE 30 Floor
CHAMIZINDUT, MA

333 Highland ave. Somerville, MA

129 Hollis Ave. braintree, MA 02/26

1291 Comm. Ave. Apt #3.

Allston, MH 02655. One Elmwood Street Roxbuy MA 02120

524 #2 (ambridge St Alston Ma 02134

Ventor Ma 7 Jagrer St Somerville

84 Kingston St Baston M 02111

232 JAMAICAMAY # Z 541 0842 02130 Newton, MA

JAMAICA PLAIN, MA 02130 1127 HARRISON AVE #401 ROYBURY MA OZILO **NAME** 

**ADDRESS** 

JOHN MANSON

Jostin Stratman

John Cittlelielo

MARY F. Cook

Detorong

Richard J. Markin

Je Sulay

Sunan

Sunan

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34 FLM 57#3 BOSTON, WA 02130 SZED Centre St. JP 02150 8 Dois Tol Brinker 02184 1464 Tremont St. Apt 1 02119???

197 Common wealth the #3 Allston WHO 2130 e8 HELLON Dott 1. J.P.Mt. 02130

DATION BUTKE

DANTON BUTKE George Wood Lawrel Pirtz

Macdo Good Dancy Leonard Elijah Mc Murtine 67 Harward Xho#3 A/Khan, 02/39

73 Bronfield RD Somerville 02144
392 Centre St. J. P. MA 02130
132 Kemble St. H2 Roxburg 02/9
BOSton M2 02125
Januara Plain MA 02/30
35 Howthern Rd. Broddie MA 02445

NAME HANS RICKHEIT ADDRESS

312 BROADWAY

CAMBRIDGE, MA

OZI39

Pave Cutter

P.O. BOX 2634, Cambridge ORDSP

ACAN NIDLE 46 MAIN ST-#3 SOMERVILLE, M. 02145

SUSAN MORTIMER 78 PUTVOUL ROAD SOMERVILLE MA 02145

Leslie Lombino 117 School St. Somerville, MA 02143

> Esther Friconar 44 21060 12D Ud 126764 1 02420

NAME DJ/LEG ADDRESS

MELIO FREITAS

PS SUMER ST 5 50mm ENULE, 02143 - AMARILDO OLIUTIAA 95 clifton St machen 02148 The DAUZE 27 North side Rexborres My Odiao aren Boutet 46 Maig At #3 Fomerville, LA 02145

Tens OB: 23 Kenney St Boston M 02130

PHODE 85 Hillsoffe St. Poxbury, MA 02120

AMMerdez 10 Williams Poxbury, MA

Whilliams Poxbury, MA

Thillsoft St #2 Exxbury MA

Ayal Nayor 200 Browning St.

(and. Uns)